

can move the positions of the selected objects in accordance with the position of the reference object, improving operability. An operation error due to an operation complicated by page switching is less likely to occur.

[0120] The above procedures can align the positions of a plurality of objects present in a plurality of pages by one position adjustment operation.

[0121] <Object Movement Processing>

[0122] FIG. 15A is a view showing an example of simultaneously moving figures contained in a plurality of pages within the pages respectively containing the figures by using the three-directional view 600. Assume that the user is to simultaneously move down title 2 of the second page and text 3 of the third page. In this case, the user selects a horizontally projected figure 1502 corresponding to title 2 of the second page and a horizontally projected figure 1503 corresponding to text 3 of the third page in the horizontal projection pane 602, as shown in FIG. 15A. The user drags either figure to a desired position with the pointing device to move the figures up or down. In the first embodiment, a figure is moved by mouse dragging, but this function may be implemented by, e.g., inputting a value into a dialog box, or operating the cursor key. The horizontal projection pane 602 presets, e.g., a slide bar 1504 to exhibit the position of a moving figure. The main pane 601 may also notify the user of the moving destination by, e.g., expressing the frame of a figure in a dotted line 1505. It is also possible to change a tab validated upon pressing a key during movement and switch the current page so that the user can easily visually check a hidden figure (figure 1503 of the third page in the first embodiment) in the main pane 601 during movement.

[0123] The user can also horizontally move figures in the vertical projection pane 603 by selecting and dragging vertically projected FIGS. 1511 and 1512, similar to figures in the horizontal projection pane 602. The user may switch between the horizontal projection pane 602 and the vertical projection pane 603 by a keyboard operation or a mouse dragging operation of a predetermined distance in order to smoothly switch between vertical movement in the horizontal projection pane 602 and horizontal movement in the vertical projection pane 603.

[0124] FIG. 15B is a view showing the result of simultaneously moving title 2 of the second page and text 3 of the third page using the three-directional view 600 in FIG. 15A. FIG. 15B shows that title 2 of the second page and text 3 of the third page move down more than those in FIG. 5 before movement. The processing shown in FIG. 15A can move objects present in different pages without switching between the pages, and improve user operability.

[0125] This processing allows the operator to perform intra-page movement processing to move a plurality of objects, which are selected in the user interface window and are contained in different pages, within respective pages in accordance with one intra-page movement processing instruction by the operator.

[0126] FIG. 16A is a view showing an example of moving a figure present in a given page to another page by using the three-directional view 600. Assume that the user is to move FIGS. 1601 and 1602 (projected figures present in the first page) displayed in the horizontal projection pane 602 to the second page without switching the window display. In this

case, the user selects the FIGS. 1601 and 1602 in the horizontal projection pane 602. Then, the user clicks the mouse on either figure, drags the figures to a destination horizontal projection pane tab area (tab area of the second page in the first embodiment), and cancels clicking of the mouse to move the figures. In the first embodiment, a figure is moved by mouse dragging, but this function may be implemented by, e.g., selecting a moving destination tab in a dialog box, or operating the cursor key. A figure may also be moved between pages in a fixed vertical direction by dragging the figure while pressing a key (e.g., a shift key). A figure may also be copied between pages by dragging the figure while pressing a key (e.g., a shift key). A figure can also be moved between different pages in the vertical projection pane 603, similar to one in the horizontal projection pane 602.

[0127] Even during dragging, the operator can select and operate a tab in the main pane 601 by a predetermined key operation or the like. The main pane can display respective pages containing objects to be moved. When the operator moves an object between pages, the display of the main pane switches to the moving destination page after the movement operation. Consequently, the operator can confirm the page after movement. After moving an object between pages, the operator drags the selected object within the moving destination page, and can continuously move the object between pages and within the moving destination page.

[0128] FIG. 16B shows the result of performing the processing in FIG. 16A. By the above-described movement processing, text 1 and text 2 laid out in the first page before movement move to the second page without switching between the pages. This processing allows the operator to achieve inter-page movement processing to move an object selected in the user interface window to a page selected in the user interface window in accordance with one inter-page movement processing instruction by the operator.

[0129] FIG. 22 is a flowchart showing processing procedures when the operator selects objects and drags the selected objects. Also in FIG. 22, the processing proceeds by giving attention to a plurality of selected figures sequentially one by one. The word processing application program 403 pays attention to the first selected figure. In step S2201, the word processing application program 403 determines whether the moving source and destination of the selected figure of interest are the same page. If NO in step S2201, the word processing application program 403 rewrites the page number in object information of the selected object interest in each pane-information storage table to the page number of the moving destination in step S2206. If the figure ID is unique in the page, the word processing application program 403 need not rewrite the figure ID. If the figure ID overlaps another one, the word processing application program 403 newly assigns a figure ID. If necessary, the word processing application program 403 sorts the pane-information storage table by the page number. In step S2207, the word processing application program 403 updates page data in accordance with movement of the selected object of interest. More specifically, the word processing application program 403 copies the moved object to the moving destination page and deletes it from the source page. Thereafter, the flow branches to step S2204. The word processing application program 403 updates data values (page value and the like) stored in the pane-information storage tables shown in